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TYCO 17674 (AT 20958-2034)
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Powell et al. :
Serial No.: 09/963,720 : Art Unit: 2833
Filed: September 26, 2001 : Examiner: Leon, Edwin A.
For: ULTRASONIC WELDED
CONNECTOR STICK :
:

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Robert Kapalka
Robert J. Kapalka

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

This communication responds to the Office Action dated July 29, 2005. There are no claim amendments.

Claims 15, 18-24, 26, 30-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czaja (US 4,717,360) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner states that Czaja discloses the claimed invention except for the use of ultrasonic weld to connect the first and second connectors. The Examiner then points to applicants' disclosure at page 7, lines 9-12, which states that T-welding is well known, and from this the Examiner reaches the conclusion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Czaja by using ultrasonic weld.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misread the applicants' disclosure and has mischaracterized its teaching. The portion of the disclosure pointed out by the Examiner (page 7, lines 9-12) describes the present invention with reference to Figs. 8 and 9. Fig. 8 shows

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a stick of connectors that are joined together by ultrasonic welds. Fig. 9 is an enlarged view showing a weld joint from Fig. 8. Nowhere do applicants describe Figures 8 and 9 as prior art.

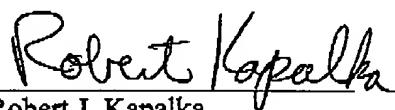
The disclosure states that "weld 350 is T-welded as is well known in the art." In other words, T-shaped welds are well known in the art of welding. However, the Examiner mischaracterizes this disclosure by stating that it discloses that "the use of ultrasonic weld (T-weld) to join connectors is well known in the art." (underlining added for emphasis). There are two inaccuracies in the Examiner's statement. First, applicants do not disclose that ultrasonic weld is well known, only that T-weld is well known. T-weld refers to any weld having a T-shape, and T-shaped welds are often used to join objects that have abutting flat surfaces. However, T-weld is not synonymous with ultrasonic weld. Second, applicants do not disclose that T-welding to join connectors is well known. Again, applicants only disclose that T-shaped weld is well known. T-shaped welds are well known in the welding industry, but that industry deals primarily with joining metal objects, not plastic connector housings. Applicants disclosure does not in any way disclose or suggest that it was well known to join connectors with T-weld.

The portion of the disclosure pointed out by the Examiner admits only that T-shaped welds are well known in the welding art. There is nothing in applicants' disclosure which supports the Examiner's conclusion that it would have been obvious to join connectors with ultrasonic weld.

For these reasons, applicants submit that the rejection of the claims is without merit.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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